

B) Amendments to the Specification:

Kindly delete the paragraph beginning at line 17, on page 2, and ending at line 2, on page 3, of the specification and substitute therefore the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 1 illustrates one typical anchor plate configuration 1. After the drain 10 is attached to the bail or handle 11 of the anchor plate 12 as indicated, the drain is pulled back manually by back spooling onto the PV drain reel, so that the anchor plate completely and firmly covers the bottom end 13 of the mandrel 14. This prevents soft soil from entering the mandrel as it is penetrated into the earth. It then acts as an anchor, holding the drain in place as the mandrel is withdrawn.

Kindly amend the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 11 by deleting the same and substituting therefore the following new Abstract:

Vertical prefabricated drains are installed into soil underlying a body of water for soil stabilization and thereafter from the surface of the water the drain member is captured within ~~the a~~ drain cutting assembly ~~of the present invention~~ which is lowered by an operating line that is tethered to the assembly into the water as guided by the captured drain. Then the prefabricated drain is severed below the ~~service~~ surface of the water by actuating the cutter assembly at the water surface with the operating line.

C) Remarks:

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out the reference numerals in the drawings which were not described in the specification and for further pointing out errors in the Abstract of the Disclosure. It is believed that the foregoing amendments correct these problems.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Juhola et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more specifically point out and define the present invention over the reference. Applicant has amended claim 1 to indicate that the prefabricated drain is driven into the soil underlying a body of water with a surrounding mandrel and then this mandrel is withdrawn thereby leaving the prefabricated drain exposed prior to the steps of capturing, lowering the cutter assembly and severing the drain. This clearly distinguishes from what is disclosed in the reference.

Juhola et al. never exposes the drain and provides a very complex cutter device within the mandrel at the bottom end thereof. Juhola et al. then cuts the drain as the mandrel is being withdrawn.

This complex cutting device within the mandrel causes the mandrel to be much larger than desired. One wants to have the smallest mandrel as possible as when driving the mandrel into the

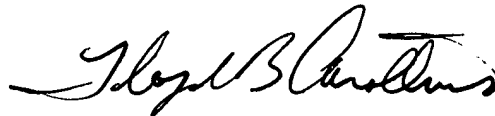
mechanism and the mandrel of Juhola et al. is obviously very complex and therefore expensive to manufacture.

Applicant solves these problems by using a conventional mandrel and a novel inexpensive cutting assembly which is lowered on the captured and exposed drain to the bottom of the body of water where the drain is then severed. This method is not shown or even suggested by Juhola et al.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration with notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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